

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 16571 191527Z

53

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-05 L-02 ACDA-05

NSAE-00 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 DODE-00 H-01 NSC-05 SS-15 OMB-01 CIEP-01 NIC-01

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R 191523Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6719

INFO AMCONSUL BELFAST

AMCONSUL EDINBURGH

AMCONSUL LIVERPOOL

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, MPOL, UK

SUBJECT: DEFENSE REVIEW: NEC CRITICISM SIDE-TRACKED

REF: LONDON 16495

1. LABOR PARTY INTERNAL STRUGGLE OVER DEFENSE REVIEW
ISSUE (REFTEL) CONTINUED DECEMBER 18 WHEN NATIONAL
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (NEC) CONSIDERED LEFTIST-SPONSORED
RESOLUTION WHICH WAS CRITICAL OF GOVERNMENT POLICY AND
CALLED FOR FURTHER CUTS IN DEFENSE SPENDING. RESOLUTION,
SPONSORED BY TRIBUNITES FRANK ALLUAN AND JOAN MAYNARD,
WAS SIDE-TRACKED, BUT NOT KILLED, BY COMPROMISE MOVE
PROPOSED BY TRIBUNITE (AND EMPLOYMENT SECRETARY) MICHAEL
FOOT.

2. FOOT PROPOSED THAT THE RESOLUTION "LIE ON THE TABLE"
UNTIL NEXT MONTH'S NEC MEETING, WHILE SPECIAL NEC SUB-
COMMITTEE CONSULTS DEFENSE SECRETARY MASON ON DETAILS OF
BUDGET ALLOCATIONS AND CUTS. THE SUB-COMMITTEE INCLUDES
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PAGE 02 LONDON 16571 191527Z

BOTH LEFT- AND RIGHT-WINGERS.

3. COMMENT: GIVEN MAKE-UP OF NEC AND ABSENCE OF KEY MODERATES FROM YESTERDAY'S MEETING, FOOT'S ACTION PROBABLY AVERTED APPROVAL OF THE HOSTILE RESOLUTION, THEREBY AT LEAST POSTPONING ANOTHER CONFRONTATION BETWEEN NEC AND WILSON GOVERNMENT (SEE LONDON 14535 AND PREVIOUS). IT IS NOT YET CLEAR WHETHER FOOT COMPROMISE WILL EFFECTIVELY KILL THE RESOLUTION, BUT IN ANY CASE THE GOVERNMENT CAN USE THE TIME TO ORGANIZE OPPOSITION TO IT. ROLE OF MICHAEL FOOT, THE DARLING OF LABOR'S LEFT-WING, IN DELAYING RESOLUTION WAS ESPECIALLY IRONIC AND WILL PROBABLY INCREASE LEFT'S SUSPICION THAT GOVERNMENT IS COOPTING HIM

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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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